

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 7, cancel claims 27-30 without prejudice and add new claims 31-38 in accordance with the following claim listing.

1. (Original) A tissue connector assembly comprising a surgical fastener comprising two clips and a bridge portion connecting said two clips.
2. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 1, wherein said bridge portion is substantially straight.
3. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 2, wherein said two clips have an open configuration and a closed configuration.
4. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 3, wherein said bridge portion provides a predetermined spacing between said clips in said closed configuration.
5. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 3, wherein at least one of said two clips is a self-closing clip.
6. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 5, wherein said self-closing clip includes a shape memory material.
7. (Currently amended) The tissue connector assembly of claim 5, further comprising a coil surrounding a substantial length of said self-closing clip ~~and releasably coupled to said self-closing clip.~~

8. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 5, wherein said closed configuration is an unbiased configuration.

9. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 5, wherein said closed configuration is a loop.

10. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 5, wherein said open configuration is a biased configuration, and further comprising a release mechanism having a first position to bias said self-closing clip in said open configuration.

11. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 10, wherein said closed configuration is an unbiased configuration, and wherein said release mechanism has a second position to unbias said self-closing clip into said closed configuration.

12. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 11, further comprising a coil surrounding a substantial length of said self-closing clip, where said coil is coupled at one point on said self-closing clip and releasably coupled via said release mechanism at a second point on said self-closing clip.

13. (Original) The surgical fastener of claim 12, wherein said first position provides for compressing said coil between said first point and second point to form said biased configuration.

14. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 13, wherein said second position provides for releasably uncoupling said coil from said second point to form said unbiased configuration.

15. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 5, wherein said surgical fastener has two ends including a first end and a second end, and further comprising two tissue piercing members

including a first tissue piercing member releasably coupled to the first end and a second tissue piercing member releasably coupled to said second end.

16. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 15, further comprising a release mechanism, and wherein said release mechanism activates said release of said two piercing members from said respective two ends.

17. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 16, wherein said release mechanism activates the closing of said self-closing clip.

18. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 15, further comprising suture, wherein said coupling of said first tissue piercing member to said first end includes suture, and wherein said coupling of said second tissue piercing member to said second end includes suture.

19. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 18, wherein said suture of said first coupling and said suture of said second coupling are between about 10 mm and about 300 mm in length.

20. (Original) A tissue connector assembly comprising:

a surgical fastener comprising

two clips including at least one self-closing clip having an open configuration and a closed configuration, where said open configuration is a biased configuration and said closed configuration is an unbiased configuration,
and

a bridge portion having a substantially straight portion connecting said two clips;

and

a release mechanism having

a first position to bias said self-closing clip in said open configuration, and
a second position to unbias said self-closing clip into said closed configuration.

21. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 20, further comprising a coil surrounding a substantial length of said self-closing clip, where said coil is coupled at one point on said self-closing clip and releasably coupled via said release mechanism at a second point on said self-closing clip.

22. (Original) The surgical fastener of claim 21, wherein said first position provides for compressing said coil between said first point and second point to form said biased configuration.

23. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 22, wherein said second position provides for releasably uncoupling said coil from said second point to form said unbiased configuration.

24. (Original) A tissue connector assembly comprising:

a surgical fastener having two ends including a first end and a second end and including

two clips including at least one self-closing clip, and

a substantially straight bridge portion connecting said two clips; and

two tissue piercing members including a first tissue piercing member releasably coupled to the first end and a second tissue piercing member releasably coupled to said second end.

25. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 24, further comprising a release mechanism, and wherein said release mechanism activates said release of said two piercing members from said respective two ends.

26. (Original) The tissue connector assembly of claim 25, wherein said release mechanism activates the closing of said self-closing clip.

Claims 27-30 (Cancelled)

31. (New) Surgical clip apparatus comprising an elongated member, a pair of coils surrounding at least a portion of said elongated member, said pair of coils being serially arranged and spaced from one another along said elongated member, said elongated member being shape memory material and having an unbiased shape, which includes a plurality of loops, and a biased shape, said elongated member tending to move toward said unbiased shape from said biased shape.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said loops are spaced from one another.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein each coil surrounds at least a portion of a different one of said loops.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein each coil has an outer end and an inner end, said inner ends being spaced from one another.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein each coil has an outer end and an inner end, and said elongated member has two enlarged end portions, further including a restraint coupled to said elongated member adjacent to each of said inner ends.

36. (New) Tissue connector apparatus comprising a surgical clip, first and second tissue piercing members each having first and second end portions, first and second couplings, and first and second flexible members, said surgical clip having first and second end portions, said first coupling being coupled to said first end portion of said surgical clip and said second coupling being coupled to said second end portion of said surgical clip, said first flexible member having a first end portion coupled to said first coupling and a second end portion secured to said second end portion of said first tissue piercing member, said second flexible member having a first end portion coupled to said second coupling and a second end portion secured to said second end

portion of said second tissue piercing member, said surgical clip comprising an elongated member, a pair of coils surrounding at least a portion of said elongated member, said pair of coils being serially arranged and spaced from one another along said elongated member, said elongated member being shape member material and having an unbiased shape, which includes a plurality of loops, and a biased shape, said elongated member tending to move toward said unbiased shape from said biased shape.

37. (New) The tissue connector apparatus of claim 36 wherein said first coupling releasably couples said first end portion of said surgical clip to said first needle.

38. (New) The tissue connector apparatus of claim 37 wherein said second coupling releasably couples said second end portion of said surgical clip to said second needle.